

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating excess weight in a mammal by continuous administration of 1 mg protein/kg body weight/day or less of an OB protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein
(SEQ. ID. No. 2);

(b) ~~recombinant methionyl human OB protein~~
(SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the methionyl residue at position -1;

(d) ~~the protein of (a), (b) or (c) lacking a~~
15 ~~glutamine at position 28; and~~

(e) a chemically modified derivative of (a), (b), (c) or (d).

2. A method of claim 1 wherein the chemically
20 modified derivative is a pegylated derivative.

3. A method of claim 2 wherein the pegylated derivative is N-terminally pegylated.

25 4. A method of claim 1 wherein said continuous
administration is accomplished by osmotic pump.

5. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 1.

30 6. A vector containing a DNA sequence
according to claim 5.

7. A vector of claim 6 wherein said vector is pCFM1656.

8. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 3.

9. A vector containing a DNA sequence according to claim 8.

5 10. A vector according to claim 9 wherein said
vector is pCFM1656.

11. A method of refolding partially purified
OB protein in a solution obtained from inclusion bodies,
10 said partially purified OB protein selected from the
group consisting of:

(a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein
(SEQ. ID. No. 2);

(b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein
15 (SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) ~~the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the methionyl residue at position -1;~~

wherein said refolding is accomplished using N-lauroyl sarcosine.

12. A method of claim 11 wherein said sarcosine is used at a concentration of 0.5% - 2.0% weight per volume of solution.